

REMARKS

In response to the office action mailed January 10, 2008, Applicant submits the following remarks. Claims 1 and 19-20 have been amended. Claim 22 is new. The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error. Claim 1 has been amended for clarity, and has been broadened by removing the limitation that “the side-walls have a length that is greater than the depth of the curved section”. Support for the amendment can be found at least on page 4, lines 29-30 and FIGS. 3 and 4. Claims 2-5, 7-8, 13, 18, and 21 are dependent from claim 1.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 1-5, 7-8, 13, and 18-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2005/0113002 (“Chen”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,280,3076 (“Hosoki”). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 1 recites that “a height of at least one of the vertical side-walls is substantially same as a height of the ledge”.

Chen describes a retaining ring with channels 304 (FIG. 3A). Hosoki describes retainer ring 27 (FIG. 5) with step portion 27a (FIG. 5). Chen and Hosoki are silent regarding a height of a vertical side-wall with respect to a height of a ledge and do not teach that “a height of at least one of the vertical side-walls is substantially same as a height of the ledge” as amended in independent claims 1 and 19-20. Even assuming arguendo that Chen and Hosoki were combined, the Examiner has not provided any reason to adjust the height of Chen's channels or Hosoki's ledge to be substantially the same.

Claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-13 and 18-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,419,567 (“Glashauser”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,280,3076 (“Hosoki”). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Glashauser describes a retainer ring with a partially open chamber 350 (FIG. 8F). On page 4 of the Office Action, the examiner equates the partially open chamber of Glashauser with “channels.” However, the partially open chamber of Glashauser does not extend “from the inner diameter surface to the outer diameter” as recited in claims 1 and 19-20. Additionally,

Glashauser describes a single partially open chamber on a retainer ring and does not describe “a plurality of channels” as recited in claims 1 and 19-20. Therefore, Glashauser does not teach “a plurality of channels, each channel extending from the inner diameter surface to the outer diameter surface” as recited in claims 1 and 19-20.

As previously noted, Hosoki describes retainer ring 27 (FIG. 5) with step portion 27a (FIG. 5). Glashauser and Hosoki are silent regarding a height of a vertical side-wall with respect to a height of a ledge and do not teach that “a height of at least one of the vertical side-walls is substantially same as a height of the ledge” as amended in claims 1 and 19-20. Claims 2-5, 7-8, 10-13, and 18 are dependent from claim 1.

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Chen in view of Hosoki or Glashauser. Applicant respectfully traverses. Claim 9 is dependent from claim 1. Chen and Hosoki or Glashauser do not teach that “a height of at least one of the vertical side-walls is substantially same as a height of the ledge” as amended in claim 1.

Claims 11, 14-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Chen or Glashauser in view of Hosoki, and in further view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0070757 (“DeMeyer”). Applicant respectfully traverses. Claims 11, 14-17 are dependent from claim 1. Chen or Glashauser, Hosoki, and DeMeyer do not teach that “a height of at least one of the vertical side-walls is substantially same as a height of the ledge” as amended in claim 1.

New claim 22 is dependent from claim 1.

Therefore, the applicant believes claims 1-5, 7-9, 11, and 13-22 are allowable for at least the reasons above.

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A petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. The fee in the amount of \$460 is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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